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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:

Patent application of
James E. Johanson et al.

Attorney Docket No.:
8945-25 (149194)

Serial No.:

09/990,013

Group Art Unit:

Confirmation No.:

3632

Filed:

November 21, 2001

Examiner:

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For:

SHIPPING BASE FOR APPLIANCES

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, submitted herewith are copies of the references listed below and on the accompanying Form PTO-1449.

The references cited herein were first cited in a Search Report on European Patent Application No. 02 256 019.7, of which the present application is the U.S. counterpart. That Search Report (copy also submitted herewith) was mailed on January 9, 2003, which is less than 3 months from the date of submission of this statement. No petition or fee is required. 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(1). Charge any fee that is due, and credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0573.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below, with sufficient postage, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

BY Jennifer R. Hanna
DATE: 2/26/03

The Examiner is respectfully requested to review the references identified below and on the accompanying form PTO-1449 and make them of record in the instant application as required by MPEP § 609.

U.S. Patent Reference

6,155,527

Foreign Patent References

Germany	GM 7612361
Germany	GM 7904758
Japan	2001-33068A
Switzerland	547206

Concise explanation of relevance of the references not in English:

A copy of the European Search Report is filed herewith, which indicates the degree of relevance of each reference as assessed by the EPO search examiner and the relevant passages.

An English-language abstract of the Japanese reference is filed herewith.

German GM 79 04 758 shows (see Fig. 3) a pallet that is humped to allow a pallet truck to be inserted under it. The two sides 4 and 5 that rest on the ground are lower than the rest of the pallet. As shown in Fig. 6, the feet of an appliance may be received in upstanding receptacles on the lowered sides. The baseplate 12 of the appliance, shown in broken lines in Fig. 1, overhangs the lowered sides 4 and 5, but not far enough to clear the angle pieces 21, which are at the level of the feet.

Japanese 2001-33068 A does not appear to show a shipping base with lowered edges. Elements 9-12 are the pallet. Elements 1-3 are the base plate of the air conditioning unit being shipped. The side walls of the air conditioning units, shown in Fig. 1, have apparently been omitted from Figs. 3 and 5 for clarity. Nakazawa includes a notch 4 in the foot 3 having raised edges 4a, 4b and the upper slat 9 of the pallet is cut away under the notch 4 so that a rope can

easily be inserted to lift the base plate 1 off the pallet 12.

Swiss 547 206 shows pallets that stack with nesting feet. The passage cited reads approximately:

In the cylindrical region B there are ribs 6, which sit at their lower ends on the step C. These ribs not only serve for stiffening, they serve also to ensure a certain spacing between the individual nested feet, so that the latter do not become stuck inside one another.

German GM 76 12 361 shows support feet for pallets. An outer shell 1 has ribs 2 that fit into grooves 6 in a core 4. The resilience of the shell and the space between the shell and core protect the core from damage in the event of an impact on the foot.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial each of the references on the enclosed PTO Form 1449, and return a copy of the initialed form to the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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